

edges of the leaves together with their jaws, each ant thus acting as an animated clamp; then come other ants every one holding in its mandibles a larva, the mouth of which is applied first to one edge of the leaf and then to the other; as a filament of slightly glutinous silk is being constantly emitted by the larva, a fine silken web is soon woven by the to and fro movements imparted to it by its bearer the worker ant and the breach in the nest is quickly repaired; the "animated clamps" relax their hold as soon as their need is past. Inasmuch as the worker ant is itself incapable of supplying silk, there seems no doubt but that all the silk of the nest is provided by the larvae. The same habit has been recorded for another species of the same genus, viz. *Oe. longinoda* of the Upper Congo and for *Camponotus senex* of Brazil.

In Notes from the Leyden Museum vol. xxv., 1905. Father E. Wasman records the observations of Herr Edu. Jacobson at Semarang in Java on the ant *Polyrhachis dives*. The nest is constructed between the leaves of a tree alluded to as the Japanese palm; the leaves are bound together by silk and the interior of the nest is lined with silk in which are entangled chips of bark, wood and fragments of dead leaves; the nest is divided into chambers by partitions of semitransparent silk. Jacobson noted that the nest which he had under observation was broken at one point and that the breach was repaired by the same method as that employed by *Oe. smaragdina*, the larvae held in the jaws of the workers being used to spin a silken web across the rent in the nest. A good many species of *Polyrhachis* employ silk in the manufacture of their nests and it would not be surprising to learn that this habit of the workers of employing the larvae as spinning machines is more general than has been hitherto suspected.

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### Malayan Musical Instruments.

In "Fasciculi Malayenses" Pt. II (a) Anthropology, of which a notice is given in "Man" 1904, there is a

description and figure of a bamboo tuning-fork supposed to be made by the Semangs of the Peninsula. As an identical instrument is described by Dr. A. Schaudenhorst from the Philippine Islands, Mr. W. N. Annandale remarks that "should it prove to be a real Semang instrument and be peculiar to the Malay Peninsula and the Philippines, it would be a most interesting link between the Semangs and the Negritos of these Islands." It may therefore be worth while to record the occurrence of this instrument in Engano, the most southerly Island of the West Sumatran chain. Examples were obtained by Dr. W. L. Abbott in the early part of this year which only differ from the figure in Fasciculi Malayenses in being without ornamentation and more roughly made. They vary in size, my examples being 25 and 30 cms. in length, and are played by being struck upon the thighs.

The Enganese have no Negrite strain and appear to be Proto-Malayans: there are at present only about 500 left and although inter-propagation has now practically ceased they are being slightly hybridised by intercourse with visiting traders principally Chinese.

The "Fascicugi Malayenses" also figures and describes Peninsula *L'nongs* or zithers. I have variants of the types given from Simalur, the most northern of the West Sumatran Islands.

The first is a closed interwove of bamboo, 66 cms. long with five strings raised from the skin and bridged in the usual manner. It is peculiar in having on the reverse side from the strings a long vibrating tongue formed by cutting a broad transverse notch opposite one set of bridges and running a split, from either end to the further extremity of the instrument.

The second *g'noug* consists of a closed internode 37 cms. long with only a single string, but having tied to the centre of this an elliptical flat wooden tongue exactly above a rectangular hole cut in the bamboo cylinder. Both instruments are played by means of wooden plectrons.

Though made by the natives of Simalur it is possible that they are of Achinese origin, of which nation there are a number of settlers on the Island, while the Simalurese have only passed out of a wooden and shell stage within the last two or three generations.

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### Chinese Names of Streets.

The following notes, by an old resident, on Mr. Firmstone's valuable list in Journal No. 42 may prove of some interest.

Armenian Street.—Tan Seng Po was, I believe, a brother-in-law of Mr. Seah Liang Leah. His house was the one in Hill-street occupied till recently by St. Mary's College.

Beach Road (VII).—“Twenty buildings,” possibly this refers to the large houses in compounds which formerly fronted the whole of this road between Bras Basah Road and Clyde Terrace, and were in old times occupied by leading European residents.

Selegie Road.—“Tek-kha, foot of the bamboos.” I remember when the road from near what is now the entrance to Sophia Road to Mackenzie Road was bordered by luxuriant lofty bamboos—the most beautiful, I think, that I have seen. I mourned when they were removed to make room for houses.

Stamford Road.—The shop ceased to be a “shoe shop” a couple of years ago.

Tanglin.—“No ‘little Tanglin.’”—The part of Orchard-road between Tank-road and Grange-road, where there have been shop-houses for very many years, was formerly known as “Tanglin Kěchil,” and may be so still.

Keppel Harbour.—“Jardine's Wharf.”—Jardine's and the Borneo Company's Wharves were separate but adjoining the former the nearer to town.